

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 14 No. 5 - May, 2006

PREZ LETTER Old Blood - New blood by Patrick Moretti, W9UQ

Sure - that's easy for you to say.

This particular board's period of activity "driving the club" is coming to an end. I think I have seen it in the board meetings and in some of the membership meetings. There comes a period of saturation where even the most dedicated amongst us becomes a little tired of the same old thing. For myself - my interest has been focused on my own life and job and those have taken a precedent over club activity (or to put it politely have directly interfered with my ability to participate). For others the apparent lack of - I don't want to call it lack of interest - but lack of wanting to participate directly by the membership at large has made it difficult to want to shoulder that burden again.

Look at "programs" as an example - they have been an issue for discussion at every board meeting - who's got the program and who has the one after that. Our treasurer and our secretary have done an outstanding job performing their duties as described in the club charter, but the joy of doing it left them both some time ago.

On the other end, we did have some good successes. One of my goals has always been to have this club be the "education" club. We finally restarted our classes and more are to come. Our code on the air is a success - recognized by other clubs in the Milwaukee area. They tell their members to come and listen to

us. Our VE program has thrived and continues to thrive serving the ham and potential ham community all around us. Those are all good things.

The point of this letter is to hopefully point out the good we did and encourage the new board to follow in those footsteps. It is also to point out to the membership at large, how wearing it is to be "performing" at least once a month in front of a membership that has a hard time telling its board what it wants. We have held surveys, we have had round tables. We need you, each of you to make up your mind that you will help the new board and you will participate, remembering that this is not a "business" organization. Rather it is an assembly of like souls with a common interest supporting each other and the community around us in our hobby and with our communications skills. It is an assembly of like-minded volunteers!

So, good by and thank you to the old board - and a hearty congratulations and welcome to the new board.

73,

Patrick
W9UQ

MRAC Officers

President	
Patrick Moretti	W9UQ
Vice President	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
Secretary	
Brian White	K9LCQ
Treasurer	
Tom Schulte	AB9EK

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis	KA9OFA
('05-'07)	
Hal Newton	KB9OZN
('04-'06)	
Charles Grady	KC9IIV
('04-'06)	
Jerry Wahlen	WA9CGE
('05-'07)	
Dick Wood	W9JBE
('05-'07)	

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NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130 ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130 MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270 Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP KF9PU K9TNN
K9LCQ K9RYW W9UQ
WB9PTC

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Howard Parks, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month. Thanks also to Dick Wood, for mailing the hard copy



of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

T h a n k Y O U !

A man who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4/27/06

Call To Order:

Vice president, Howard Parks, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

The microphone was passed for all present to introduce themselves.

Warren, K9IZV, announced that at the last meeting there were 16 new attendees.

Brian, K9LCQ, read the minutes of the March membership.

There was one addition as published in the Chatter. For the FM Simplex contest Warren, K9IZV, won the 1.25 meters certificate.

Pancho, KA9OFA, made a motion to accept the minutes as read and was seconded by Charles, KC9IIV.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Tom, AB9EK, read the treasurer's report for February.

There were no additions or corrections.

Joe, N9UX, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Tom, WI9TOM.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

The microphone was again passed around so that those present could talk about their amateur radio activity over the past month.

Once again a call was made for someone to step forward to handle the Field Day chairman duties; as usual there were no takers.

Howard announced that the board is trying to complete the club inventory list. Any member that has gear in their possession, please let the treasurer know.

Election news:

Hal, KB9OZN, agreed to run the election committee since he is not running for re-election.

Al, KC9IJJ, and Ken, WK9H, agreed to help with the vote counting.

Hal accepted nominations from the floor. The following were nominated:

For President

Howard, AB9FH

Dave, WB9BWP

Charles, KC9IIV

For Vice president

Howard, AB9FH

Charles, KC9IIV

Joe, N9UX

For Secretary

Charles, KC9IIV

For Treasurer

Charles, KC9IIV

Sarah, KB9ZNC

For Director (2 positions)

Charles, KC9IIV

Tom, WI9TOM

Charles, KC9IIV, suggested that we have name tags for all eligible voters.

Pancho, KA9OFA, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tom, WI9TOM.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian White, K9LCQ
Secretary

HEARING PROBLEM AT MEETINGS?

We seem to have a slight problem at our meetings. This has to do with some people not being able to hear or to understand what is going on or being said up front. We have run into this problem before numerous times and there isn't much we CAN do about it at present.

We ARE guests at the church and if we do use their P.A. system with speakers in the ceiling, we then interfere with what is going on upstairs whether it's their choir practice or other activities.

Our sound engineer who used to also do work for the church is no longer coming to meetings because he moved up to Winneconne and is no longer available to work on our combined sound systems.

We have a wireless mic, which was donated to the club and we do use it.

We do have several options here:

- 1) Move forward in the room to better hear what's going on.
- 2) Find a different place to meet which more fully meets our requirements (no small task).
- 3) Get a better hearing aid or turn the volume up on the one that you do have.
- 4) Maybe some of you out there can come up with another solution.

MUSICAL MORSE-US ARMY STYLE

BY FRED LINN, W9NZF



In the early days, Army buglers had a complicated job. Not only did they have to memorize a multitude of "Bugle Calls", from reveille to taps, and from "Boots & Saddles" to "Stable Call". They also had to be competent Morse operators, utilizing the General Service Code. This was practically identical to International Morse.

They had to be competent signalers in the use of the whistle, wigwag flag, and drum, as well as the use of the bugle.

The buglers were not specifically part of the Signal Corps, but they had a great many duties that were similar. In this respect, in the 1915 manual for Buglers, the Bandmaster of the Army outlined what was expected of the qualified bugler. This applied equally to the Navy, Marine Corps., Revenue Cutter, National Guard, and the Boy Scouts' service!

Company musicians in the field were equipped with the short "B" flat bugle, a whistle, a .45 caliber automatic pistol, and a signal flag. Each company had a

distinctive signaling flag, which also served as a rallying point for companies disorganized in combat, as well as to mark the company's location in bivouac.

The dot was executed by a motion to the right; the dash to the left. The flag was held erect at the start of the signal, and was brought down to the side, (right or left) in a "figure 8 motion", thus not fouling the staff on its return to the vertical, in preparation for the next letter.

Pauses or spaces were executed with a motion to the front & downward, directly to the front of the sender, the flag being instantly returned to the vertical.

In addition to flag use, General Service Code could be transmitted on the bugle or a whistle. A short note of "C", indicated a dot, while a long note was used to indicate a dash. A single note of "G" represented the end of a letter or a figure. The end of a letter or sentence was represented by longer blasts on other notes such as lower "C" or up-

per "G".

In addition, officers, platoon leaders and guides as well as musicians, were equipped with whistles. Both guides and musicians would assist by repeating (relaying), signals when necessary.

Battalion and company commanders used whistles of a different tone than those of platoon leaders, guides, and musicians.

For communicating between the firing line and reserve, or command in the rear, the Signal Corps code of signals was used. These signals could also be sent by flag, bugle, a hat or with a light. Two lanterns were used, according to regulations with one being used to signal, and another being placed at the sender's feet as a guide. Navy buglers were also expected to be able to use the Flashing or Occult light system, as well as the bugle and the Ardois System of signaling. In that system a red light represented a dot, and a white light a dash. The end of each word was represented by the letters RW.

Hi, REMEMBER ME?

BY DAVE DEFEB0, WB9BWP

Hi, remember me? I am not currently an officer but my name got thrown in the nominations at the April meeting. When I was nominated I did not say yes. I said, "It depends". What does it depend on? I guess it is based on how I feel about the membership and the future. During my last turn at President, from 1998-2002 I was constantly complaining about people getting involved with the club. Getting involved does not mean coming to meetings and eating doughnuts. It means things like running for of-

fice, managing or participating with Field Day, the repeater, our nets, the FM simplex contest, the newsletter, the raffle table, the refreshments, doing a meeting program, teaching a class, the VEC, a club table at a hamfest or SuperFest, teaching code on the air and maybe some things we haven't thought of yet. The 90th anniversary is only a few months away. What about that? When you say, "Well all that stuff seems to be handled". Look who is doing the job. The same people who have done it for years, sometimes very many years. Sometimes one person does multiple jobs. While they may want to do that at first, it does get old after a while.

those jobs are lifetime appointments. They sometimes turn into that because no one steps up. Personally I am getting tired of carrying the load for some people. I guess part of my problem is maybe I don't really know what people want. For a number of years we have averaged over 40 people at club meetings, yet getting nominations for 6 offices is like pulling teeth. Who knows what kind of Field Day we will have this year as no one stepped up to run it? I don't know about you, but I think a radio club should be doing radio things. Field Day is a radio thing. Eating doughnuts is not. And for Field Day, don't give me that c#@p about it be-

JOIN US FOR FIELD DAY 2006

BY PANCHE, KA9OFA

What is Field Day?

Well, it's an activity or event whereby an individual or group of people set up radio stations under more or less emergency situations, then get on the air with this equipment and see how many contacts they can make. Those Field Day sites could be a public park the shore of a lake, stream or just about any type of other location. Some use emergency power (gasoline, solar, steam or other) and other rigged antennas (various combinations of concocted systems). It's basically a test to check how easily a person or group can put a station together and get on the air.

Our Field Day site is at **Pioneer Village**, which is about **ten miles north of Cedarburg on Highway "I"**, just north of Hawthorne Hills Country Club. We have the use of the Cedarburg train depot, which was moved to the site a number of years ago. (The depot even has a set of tracks running in front with a caboose on it). The last time I was there the telegraph system still worked. We couldn't ask for a nicer F.D. site. If the weather gets stormy we can pull our equipment into the baggage area out of the elements and operate providing there is no lightning activity. We can also operate from in the depot at the telegrapher's desk or waiting room or even under the depot canopy. We do have our own club equipment or you can bring your own to connect with some of our antennas.

We may use various modes of communication including SSB,

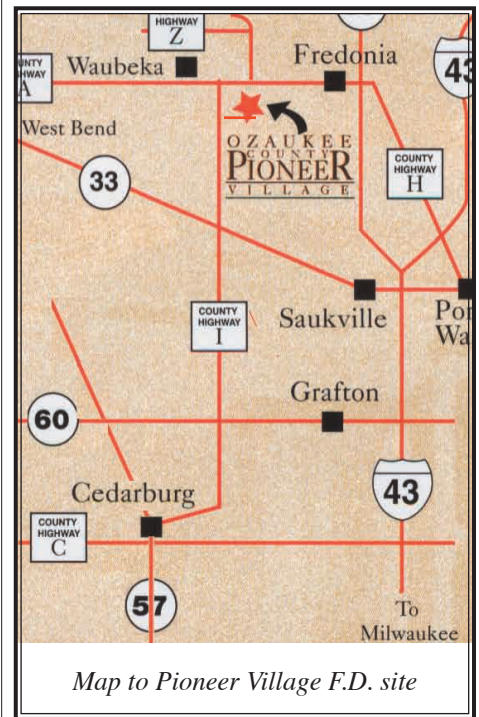
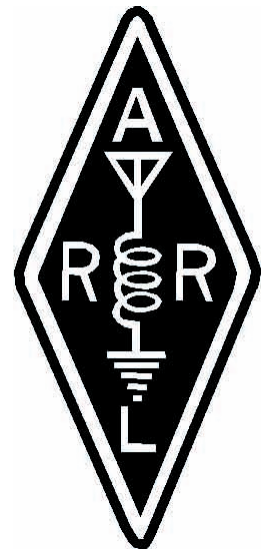
CW (Morse code), Amateur TV, slow scan TV, radio teletype, and PSK 31, among others. Ee might even use an amateur satellite to communicate. There are so many ways to communicate if you are a HAM and any of them may be used at a field day site.

We usually also have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station with which an unlicensed operator may, with guidance from a licensed operator, get on the air and make contacts.

Join in the Field Day fun on **Saturday, June 24 and Sunday June 25th**. Some of us start arriving at the Field Day site around 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and start setting up. Then we have some lunch (provided by the MRAC). Then at around noon, we start operating. There are usually people operating around the clock. The operation comes to a halt at noon on Sunday and we tear down the operation and pack up to go home.

You can come for an hour or two or come for the whole time. Bring your sleeping bag, sleep on a depot bench or bring a tent or camper and your mosquito repellent (though in the past the mosquitoes haven't been bad), sunscreen or what have you. The club provides food and liquid refreshments. Bring your family and friends. It's also our annual club picnic. It's a great time to get together and have fun, of amateur radio camaraderie, cooperation and learning.

So, Y'all come!!!



GOTA station at Field Day2004

ANNUAL MRAC AUCTION

Come one, come all! To the gigantic MRAC Annual Auction

Bring your equipment and/or money to our annual MRAC auction. Come and pick from numerous treasures. There may be any number of pieces of HAM gear (radios, antennas, test gear, telegraph keys, other related do-dads). You just may find the one piece (or pieces) of gear that you need for your radio station.

You could donate the equipment proceeds to the club or give the club 10% of anything over a \$5.⁰⁰ sale price.

Who's the Auctioneer? Dave DeFebo,
WB9BWP

When? At our next Meeting at 7: 00 p.m.,
Thursday, May 25

Where? At Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall at 4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(just north of Walgreen's at the corner
of Capitol and Mayfair)



WB9BWP WB9BWP CONTINUED FROM PG 4

ing too far to drive. Do you go to hamfests? Do you go out to dinner? What about driving to work? There are at least 3 groups with Field Day sites in Ozaukee County. Only 1 is local to the county. Did you go to the Ozaukee hamfests? Field Day is only a few miles down the road from the hamfest site.

Let this be fair warning. If I

leave my name on the ballot and end up in some kind of office, I am going to make a major effort to kick the club in its collective behind. Along the way I may step on a few toes - maybe a lot of toes. I could apologize in advance, but I really don't feel like an apology is or will be necessary. Maybe the membership should apologize for being in a state of suspended animation for so long.

OTA CW CLASSES

- Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI, are still holding "On The Air" code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m. on our repeater.
- Dick, WB9PTC, is also teaching a beginner's class on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- They need more feedback from the listeners and participants to know if they are getting it and to know how to improve the lessons. If you can, check in so they have an idea how many are participating/listening and how to adjust the sessions.



REMINDERS!

- Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.
- Our ten meter SSB net is at 8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.
- Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at 145.390 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.

- Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

EVENTS

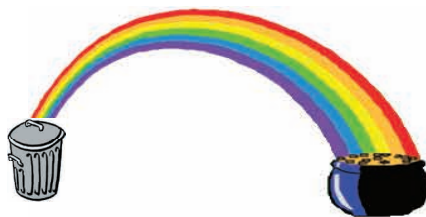
MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - May 25, 2006
7:00 P.M.
Election of Officers
Annual Auction

Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days

Sat. & Sun. - June 24 & 25, 2006

ARRL Field Day
Sat. - Sun., June 24 & 25, 2006
Pioneer Village
10 mi. north of Cedarburg
on Hwy "I"

Princeton HamFest
SAT.-SUN. - JUNE 3 & 4, 2006
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955 - MHz (103.5 PL)



SMARC SwapFest
SAT. - JULY 8, 2006
American Legion Post 434
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 MHz Simplex

W9ZL Special Event Station
for EAA Fly-In
Thu. - Sun., Jul. 27 - 30, 2006
1300 - 2000 zulu
Oshkosh, WI
7,250 & 14,270 KHz & VHF

2006 Central States VHF
Annual Conference
Fri. & Sat., July 28 & 29, 2006
Ramada Mall-of-America
Bloomington, MN

Bolingbrook HamFest 2006 *
Sun., August 6th, 2006
Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, IL
T/I on 147.33 + MHz & 224.54 - MHz

Circus City SwapFest * BSSS ?
SAT. - AUG 12, 2006
SAUK CO. FAIRGROUNDS
BARABOO, WI

*** indicates VE testing is available.**

EXAM RESULTS

BY TOM, KF9PU

We had a good session on Saturday, April 29. Twelve applicants stopped by, and 10 left either as newly licensed hams or with upgraded licenses.

VEs who assisted with the session included:

Mark Tellier.....AB9CD
 Tom Czaja.....KG9EE
 Nels Harvey.....WA9JOB
 Ken Hahn.....WK9H
 Kent Christiansen....N9WH
 Gabe Chido.....WI9GC
 Les Hundt.....AB9EY
 Hal Newton.....KB9OZN
 Ken Eggert.....W9MOT
 Mark Bye.....KB9LDX

Our next session will be held at AES at 9:30 on May 27.

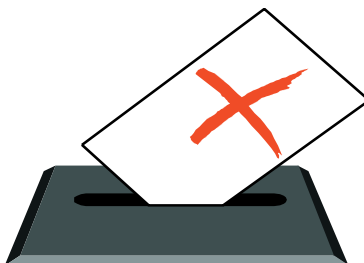
UPCOMING MRAC PROGRAMS

Projected upcoming programs for MRAC will include:

May 25th meeting will be **election of officers** and our **annual auction**.

Think about who you'd like to see sitting in the seats of POWER in our club. Maybe you?.

June 29th meeting will come **almost a week after Field Day**, so we will discuss how Field Day went.



EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM, KF9PU

MRAC VEC A Exam
Schedule
Spring & Summer 2006

Sat., May 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI



The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, May 25, 2006**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

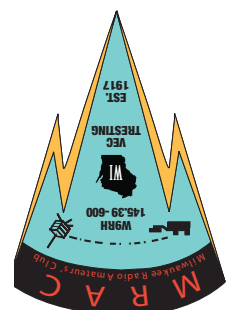
Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3Hz pl)**

**Our program
for the
May 25th meeting
will be our
Annual Auction
and
Election of
Officers**

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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